# STATE OF THE CITY BEDFORD, OHIO

SPONSORED BY THE BEDFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



#### 2013 YEAR END



- ☐ City concluded 2013 with a \$2.9 million general fund cash balance.
  - These funds were a result of city income tax collections and savings from unspent budgets from all departments.
  - We will be subject to additional State revenue cuts and real estate tax collections in 2014!
  - \$5.8 million reserve still intact
    - Legislation exists requiring a 15% reserve be maintained
- We are on schedule to operate at a balanced budget throughout 2014



#### 2013 YEAR END



- Ben Venue Laboratories decision to close itsBedford based operations
  - Employment will be phased out concluding at the end of 2014 (Over 1,100)
  - ☐ The effect will be roughly \$2.3 million in losses annually starting in 2015
  - City officials have been meeting regularly with representatives from BVL, State officials, Senators and others to ensure the facility is occupied
  - City remains optimistic positive news will surface towards the early summer months

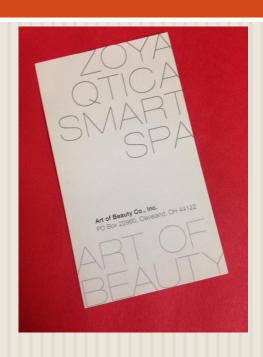


#### 2013 YEAR END



- Elmer Flick Dedication
- Thank you to all that helped make this dream a reality





- Art of Beauty acquired the Taylor Chair facility.
- Will be bringing 50+ jobs to the City with the hopes for future expansion

# FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief: Dave Nagy

Asst. Chief: Shawn Solar





# Staffing

- 25 Line Firefighters (24 Paramedics)
  - Firefighters work 24 hour shifts
- 2 Chief Officers (2 Paramedics) 26 Paramedics Total
  - 90% of Department are Certified Paramedics
- 1 Civilian Administrative Assistant





## 2013 Request for Service

- 2319 Total Requests for Service
  - 1% decrease from previous year
- 1804 Requests for Advanced Life Support Rescue Squad
  - Accounted for 78% of department's calls
- 515 Fire / Specialized Rescue Calls
  - Responded to 46 Structure Fires (24% increase from 2012)
  - Total fire dollar loss Increased by 22% from previous year





#### 2013 in Review

- Received \$365,000 SAFER Grant from FEMA that enabled department to increase staffing by 2 firefighters at zero cost to citizens. A direct result of this will be the ability to fully staff 2 Advanced Life Support Rescue Squads on all shifts.
- Implemented Regional Protocols and Training Programs with a focus on resource sharing, citizen and firefighter safety while executing daily emergency responses.
- Actively working with Bedford Heights, Garfield Heights and Maple Heights toward implementing the first combined Fire and Police 911 Center in Cuyahoga County.



#### 2014 Goals

- Maintain Quality of Life for our Citizens.
- Continue to explore Regionalization and Resource Sharing Opportunities.
- Implementation of Regional Dispatch Center.
  - \$3.3 million in grants already acquired
- Reduce fire loss.





# POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief: Kris Nietert

Deputy Chief: Marty Stemple



## POLICE DEPARTMENT CONT.



# 2013 Staffing

- 31 Officers
- $\Box$  6 F/T 7 P/T Dispatchers
- 4 P/T Correction Officers1 F/T
- □ 4 F/T 3 P/T Support Staff
- 23 Auxiliaries
- □ 3 P/T Animal Control
- □ 4 P/T School Crossing Guards



# POLICE DEPARTMENT CONT.



#### 2013 in Review

- Chief Duber retired after 33 years of service
- One Ptlm. is on extended military leave
- Staff is actively working toward the regional dispatch center
- Staff continues to strive to make residents/businesses feel safe and secure in the City
- Department has been working with the Schools and Municipal Departments to develop a plan to address an active shooter scenario

## POLICE DEPARTMENT CONT.



## **2014 Goals**

- Focus on Community Policing: Maintain quality of life
- Reduce Part I offenses: <u>received a \$6,000 grant to address</u> auto thefts and robbery issues
- Focused traffic enforcement: Department is aligning its traffic enforcement goals with the UHHS OVI Task Force traffic enforcement objectives
- Two members of the department (Sgt. & a Ptlm.) are retiring this year
- Continue to seek grant opportunities to assist with department programs and operations
- Two new Police vehicles will be purchased in 2014

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT & PUBLIC WORKS







Director: Clint Bellar

Superintendent of Public Works: Shawn Francis

#### SERVICE DEPARTMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

- 40 employees in the service, water, waste water and cemetery
- Consistently provide multiple services such as:
  - Operation and maintenance of Bedford Water Dept., Waste
     Water Treatment Plant & Bedford Cemetery
  - Leaf pick-up, chipper service, snow plowing
  - Maintenance of all vehicles, paint striping and sign repairs
  - Water, sewer (1450 calls), sanitary and storm needs
  - Currently maintain 50 miles of roads within the City
  - Extensive in-house street / curb repair
  - Landscape/maintain Public Square, Veteran's Park and downtown area
  - Christmas lighting display

#### SERVICE DEPARTMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

- 2013 Street improvement program
  - Over 15 streets completed totaling \$1,205,733.00 (Bonds)
- Phase 1 of the Broadway water main replacement project completed
  - **\$1,510,190.00**
  - □ Total project length is 4,310 feet
- Commercial Water Meter replacement program Phase 2
  - \$37,648(water fund, completion 2014)
- Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements such as equalization basin cleaned and pumps replaced. Total costs = \$800,000.00

# RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Director: Randy Lewis

Asst. Director: Jeff Fiala





#### **Special Events**



- Easter Egg Hunt
- Memorial Day coordination
- Fourth of July participation
- Senior Afternoon at the Races

- Baseball Days
- Progressive Field
- Halloween Party
- Christmas Party

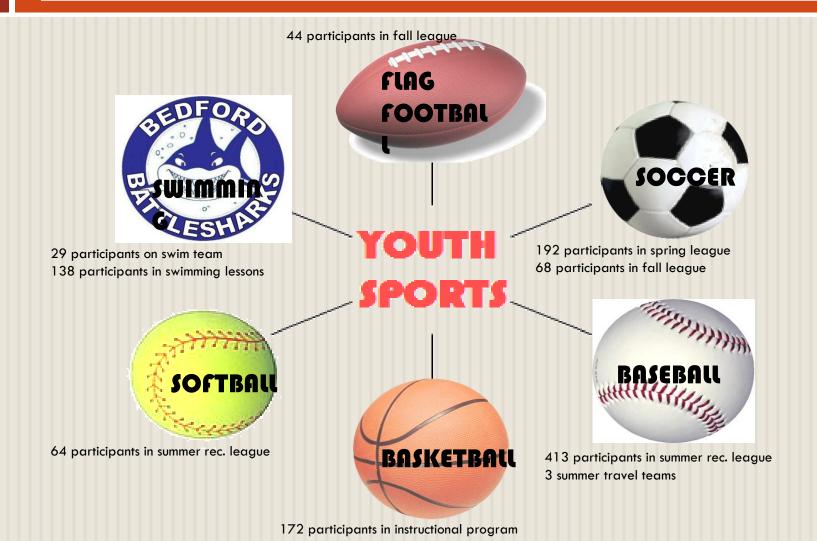




- ☐ Ellenwood Renovation Project
  - ☐ Total project will cost over \$150,000.00
  - ☐ Will include a complete redesign of the front entranceway, men's restroom, senior lounge and primary meeting room for the community.









#### **Fast Facts & Activities**

- The Recreation Department maintains over 27 acres of property along with the baseball fields at various locations.
- In 2013, over 66,000 people utilized Ellenwood Center with permitted functions; this does not include open gym, or special events/activities.
- More than 30,000 individuals utilized the pavilion with permitted functions (does not include the open to the public uses).
- The Senior Citizen Van provided trips for over 2,700 residents, averaging almost 18 trips a day, and logging over 22,375 miles in 2013.
- The Ellenwood Center was open for activities on 322 of 365 days in 2013, almost 90% of the year.





#### Senior Programming

- **Senior Van Service** Our Senior van travels over a thousand miles a month to serve nearly 300 seniors. The van transports to doctors' visits, shopping trips, personal and business appointments and hospital visits.
- **Senior Line Dancing** nearly 30 seniors gather each Monday morning to enjoy some exercise and to socialize. This year the group expanded to Thursday evenings to serve seniors who are still working.
- **Senior Chair Aerobics** nearly 60 seniors have fun shaping up with this low impact exercise class.
- **Senior Movie Wednesdays** 20 seniors gather bi-monthly to enjoy some popcorn and movies from present and past.
- **Medicare/Health Insurance Counseling** through the Ellenwood Center nearly 75 seniors received helpful advise and assistance in choosing medical and health care plans through Medicare and the private sector.



#### Senior Programming Cont.

Craft Class – Once a month about 20 seniors get together to create a craft of the month.

WII Bowling – Several dozen senior residents have enjoyed participating in our newly-organized WII bowling league this past year at Ellenwood. One senior is currently holding a 241 pin average! Plans are underway to begin play with WII Golf or WII Baseball in the coming year.

**Tax Preparation –** We scheduled over 100 appointments for free AARP tax preparation services offered at Ellenwood. In 2013 Ellenwood also became an e-filing site.

**Senior Bus Trips** — The Seniors group goes on 6 to 8 trips a year with a portion of the trip being subsidized by the City. Some of the trips include the Indians game, plays and historical sites.



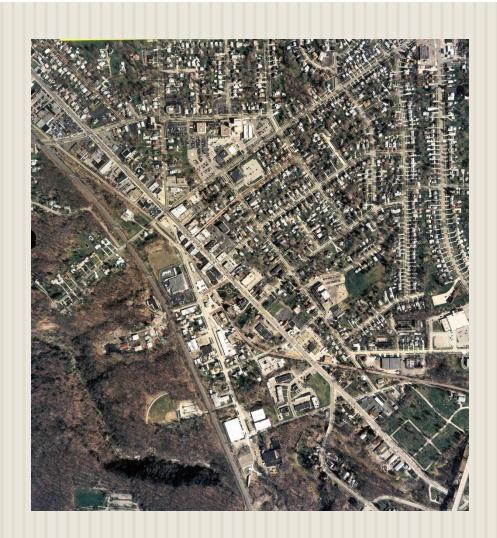


# BUILDING DEPARTMENT



Commissioner: Calvin Beverly

Beautiful Bedford, Ohio Less than 5 ½ square miles



## BUILDING DEPARTMENT CONT.



- 5 full time employees
- 484 Contractors registered for the City; \$29,450.00
- 286 point of sale inspections; \$14,725.00
- 1737 apartment units & 745 rental dwellings
  - Over 1900 property inspections performed
    - 1,000 more than 2012
    - The focus on exterior maintenance will continue into 2014

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT CONT.



## **Projects of Scale**

- □ KIA of Bedford \$4,100,000.00
- Mercedes Benz of Bedford \$3,000,000.00
- □ Bedford Audi \$2,500,000.00
- Toyota of Bedford \$2,500,000.00
- □ Jay Honda \$750,000.00

Estimated value of all construction....\$12,850,000.00 (\$4,962,029.00 in 2012)

# BUILDING DEPARTMENT CONT.



#### Vacant Residential Property Program

- The range of construction work for these homes included: new windows and doors; new roofs; remodeled kitchens and bathrooms; new carpeting and/or floorings; fresh paint; upgraded electrical work; upgraded plumbing; new garage doors and roofs; driveway, sidewalk and access walk repairs; tree trimming and removal; landscaping
- The City currently owns 8 homes associated with this program.
- There are roughly 315 vacant homes to date, which includes bank owned, government owned and estate owned
- Partnership with the Cleveland Restoration Society
  - Tremendous resource for home improvements

# FINANCE DEPARTMENT



#### **Finance Director:**

#### Frank Gambosi

- □ Frank was reappointed for another 3 year term (2012-2014) as chairman of twelve members of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's Special Review Executive Committee (SREC). Responsible for overseeing the operations of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program, as well as establishing program policy, subject to review by the GFOA Executive Board.
- Frank was also appointed as 3 year term trustee in 2012, of the Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ohio representing Municipal Finance Directors of District 8 (Cuyahoga County).
- Frank has served as Past President of the Ohio GFOA in 2008-2010



# FINANCE DEPARTMENT CONT.



- 7 full time employees in tax and finance departments
- In 2013 department received its 23nd consecutive International Award from the Government Finance Officers Association
- The City maintains an investment board consisting of the City Manager, Law Director and Director of Finance.
- The City has been self-insured regarding Health Insurance costs for our employees for the past 23 years.
  - □ Unfortunately, over the last 2 years the City had \$1,200,000 more in employee health claims than 2011; however, over the other years the net savings from this type of program was \$200,000 per year vs. a premium plan program (estimated savings to date over \$1.6 million)

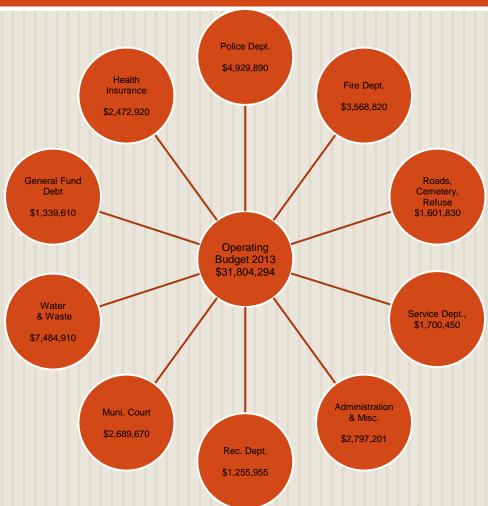
# FINANCE DEPARTMENT CONT.



- Monitor throughout the year fund balances, construction projects and grants and report upon them to Council, the State of Ohio and Federal Government Agencies.
- The City has been working with a private collections company in an effort to collect back taxes. The result of this was a record amount of collections of over \$472,000 in 2011, 357,000 in 2012 and \$383,000 in 2013.
- □ The Tax department has saved \$28,000 from 2009 − 2012 by not issuing tax forms to residents & businesses.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT CONT.





- •The Safety Forces Levy generates roughly \$2.1 million.
- •The Fire Medic levy generates roughly \$727,385

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



#### Director: Michael Mallis

Mission: The City of Bedford is committed to retaining and attracting businesses to our community. The City works in partnership with public and private organizations to enhance local capacity and provides resources that support economic development activities.



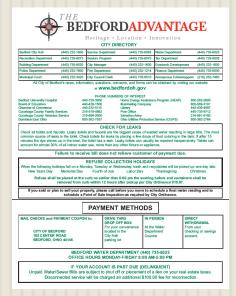




#### **Marketing Efforts**

- Our goal has been to inform our residents and businesses of as much information as possible
  - Monthly utility bill inserts, Facebook, Twitter and quarterly redesigned newsletters to help inform the public.
  - New in 2013 was the E-NEWS digital notifications







#### **Grants & Projects**

- Administered the Storefront Renovation Program
  - Saved local businesses over \$25,000.00
- City was awarded a \$150,000.00 grant to renovate various aspects of the Ellenwood Community Center
- Also successful in grants through the Solid Waste District, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture & other organizations
- City is working to both establish and extend the Metroparks bike paths throughout the City
  - The goal is to highlight parks attractions throughout the City
- In 2013, the City also gained control of the Rysar Properties vacant land adjacent to Viaduct Park
  - The plan is to discuss various uses for the space and determine its best and most attractive use

Over the last 10 years, the City has been successful in obtaining over \$30 million in grant dollars



## **Bedford Auto Mile Improvements**

- Over the course of the last 18 months, the Bedford Auto Mile has invested roughly \$25 million into the City with various dealer renovations and improvements.
  - Include Bedford Audi, Subaru, Kia, Mercedes, Toyota and others.

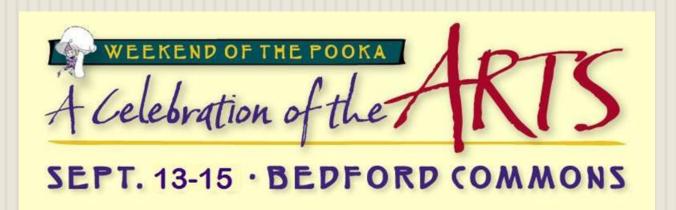


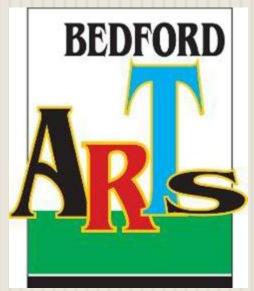




- Job creation tax credit
- Community Reinvestment Areas; administered jointly by Economic Development and Finance Departments
- Past President of the First Suburbs Development Council
- Moderator Arts and Cultural Board
  - The Arts movement is growing in the City with more

and more people enjoying each event







#### 2014 & Beyond

- Continue to work with BVL Representatives
- CDBG Ellenwood Project and Gateway Signage
- Continue to market the City of Bedford as a whole....housing, businesses, service and overall quality of life
- Determine a plan for the Rysar Property
- Collaborate with the developers of Meadowbrook
   Market Square to enhance retail in complex
- Collaborate with Hemisphere to market Tinkers
   Creek Commerce Park



# QUESTIONS / COMMENTS



